

2006 Edition

Arkansas Secretary of State  
**Charlie Daniels**  
*presents ...*



**A Pocket Guide  
to Voting in the  
Natural State**

**Be Heard. Get Registered.  
Go Vote!**



## State of Arkansas Secretary of State

**Charlie Daniels**  
Secretary of State

Dear Arkansas Voter,

It's one of our basic rights as Americans, but it's one that too few choose to exercise: our right to vote. Going to the polls can be intimidating, especially for first-time voters. That's why my office provides this simple "how-to" guide that helps clarify many myths and uncertainties about voting. **Voting 101** spells out your rights and responsibilities, as well as convenient options you have for casting your ballot.

During the 2006 elections, all Arkansas voters are likely to encounter a number of changes as a result of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), which will be in full effect this year. New procedures and equipment are designed to make voting easier and more accessible for all voters. We hope this booklet will be a valuable resource in keeping you up to date on those changes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charlie Daniels".

Charlie Daniels

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# Applying to Register to Vote

## Registration Requirements



*To register to vote, you must:*

- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Be an Arkansas resident (residing in Arkansas at least 31 days prior to the first election in which you will vote).
- Be age 18 or turn 18 on or before the next election.
- Not be a convicted felon whose sentence has not been discharged or pardoned.
- Not be presently adjudged as mentally incompetent as to your ability to vote by a court of competent jurisdiction.
- Not be registered elsewhere – in another county in Arkansas or another state.

## Where Can I Apply?



*Register to vote at your local:*

- County clerk's office in your home county
- State Revenue Office, Driver Services (pick up a paper form or ask for your information to be transmitted electronically)
- Public library or Arkansas State Library
- Public assistance agency
- Disability agency
- Military recruitment office

 Arkansas National Guard

 Voter registration drive

***Apply by mail. Obtain an application from:***

 Your county clerk

 Secretary of State Elections Division, 1-800-247-3312

 The Secretary of State's website:

[www.sos.ar.gov/elections/vote/vote.html](http://www.sos.ar.gov/elections/vote/vote.html)

## Identification Requirements



***If you are registering to vote by mail:***

You must provide either your driver's license number or the last four digits of your Social Security number on your Arkansas Voter Registration Application, or check the box in #7 on the application to indicate that you do not possess either a driver's license or Social Security number.

If you check the box indicating that you do not possess either a driver's license or Social Security number, you may be required to vote a Provisional Ballot when you vote for the first time unless you submit a photocopy of one of the following with your mail-in application or at the time of voting:

1. Current and valid photo identification, **or**
2. A copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check or paycheck that shows your name and address, **or**
3. Another government document that shows your name and address.

## Registration Deadlines



- You must submit your application to an official voter registration agency or mail it no later than 30 days prior to an election in which you wish to vote. The postmark on a mail-in application will be considered the submission date.
- If you completed your application at a voter registration drive, the organizers must submit it to the county clerk or Secretary of State's office within 21 days of the date on the application or no later than 30 days prior to the next election.
- If you submit your application close to an election registration deadline, you are strongly advised to follow up on your registration status with your county clerk before Election Day.
- If an election deadline is looming, there is one method of application that will ensure your eligibility: apply in person with your county clerk.
- If you have not received verification from your county clerk, be sure to confirm your registration BEFORE Election Day.

## How Do I Know I'm Registered?



- Consider yourself registered when — and only when — you receive an acknowledgment from your county clerk. This could take several weeks, regardless of your method of application.

- Never assume you are registered to vote until you have received this acknowledgment.
- Call your county clerk after two weeks and inquire about the status of your application.

## **Special Registration Issues**

### ***If you are registered in another state or county:***

- If you have moved to Arkansas from another state, notify the voter registrar in your previous state of residence to request cancelation.
- Similarly, if you have moved from one county to another within Arkansas, you must cancel your registration in the old county and re-register in your new county of residence.
- For questions about canceling your registration, please ask your local county clerk for assistance.

### ***If you are a college student attending college OUTSIDE of your home county:***

You must decide which county you consider “home.” If you intend to return to live in your home county, then list your parents’ address as your residence. If you do NOT intend to return there, then list your college address as your residence. Remember: you must keep your residence address CURRENT on your voter registration. This requirement often persuades college students to use their parents’ address, which may be less likely to change repeatedly.

***If you are in the military:***

You may register to vote in the office of the county clerk in the county in which you reside or you may register using the mail registration form. Federal Law requires that a single Federal Post Card Application (FPCA SF-76) simultaneously serves all states and territories as both a registration form and application for absentee ballot.

Military personnel may contact the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) of their Voting Assistance Officer for further information or to obtain a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). Call 1-800-438-8683 or e-mail the program at **vote@fvap.ncr.gov** or visit the website:

**[www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov)**

***If you own property in more than one county:***

You must register to vote wherever you actually “live or reside.” Owning property or a business in a county does not constitute residency there.



# FAQs on Voter Registration

**Q:** *Am I registered to vote when I send in my voter registration form?*

**A:** No, submitting your voter application at a state agency, in a voter registration drive or through the U.S. Postal Service does NOT guarantee your registration. You should follow up on the status of your registration just as you would on any other personal business matter. Before considering yourself a registered voter, you must receive an acknowledgment of your registration from the county clerk.

Unfortunately each Election Day, many would-be first-time voters in Arkansas do not have their votes counted because they are not actually registered to vote. Many believed they had registered months before, but failed to follow up when they did not receive a voter ID card from their county clerk.

The process of voter registration is convenient, but it also places responsibility on the registrant to ensure the process is completed.

**FOLLOW UP ON YOUR  
VOTER REGISTRATION  
BEFORE ELECTION TIME!**

**Q: *I live in one county but work in another. I would like to vote in the county where I work because I am more involved in that community. Can I change my registration to the county where I work?***

**A:** No. Arkansas law requires you to register in the county where you reside.

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**Q: *I have moved twice in the last few years to different counties in Arkansas, but never canceled my previous voter registrations. How can I remove my name from the old voter rolls and move my registration to my new county of residence?***

**A:** In Arkansas, movement across county lines requires the cancelation of registration in the old county and new registration in the new county. To vote in your new county, you must have registered there 31 days prior to the election. All voter registration applications contain a section for listing your previous address.

Counties periodically send address confirmation mailings to “clean up” their voter rolls. If you receive such a mailing, it is important that you indicate your correct new address and return the card to the county clerk so that your old registration can be canceled.

Another safeguard is provided by the Secretary of State’s office, which performs periodic checks for duplications in voters registered across the state. It is best for you to take the initiative and

notify the county clerk in your old county and ask that your registration be canceled there.

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**Q: *My neighbors were born in South America but they vote in every election here. Is that legal?***

A: If they are naturalized U.S. citizens, are at least 18 years old, are Arkansas residents, are not felons who have not discharged their sentences, and have not been determined to be mentally incompetent to register and vote, then they are eligible to register and vote. Anyone who is a naturalized citizen meeting these requirements may vote if they have registered at least 30 days prior to the election. (ACA 7-5-201)

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**Q: *I got married last summer and changed my name. I recently re-registered in my married name. What should I do to be sure that my previous registration in my maiden name is canceled?***

A: One of the most common causes of duplicate registrations is a name change after marriage. You should inform your county clerk which name you wish to have canceled. Anyone wishing to change the name on his or her voter registration should fill out the name change portion of the voter registration application form. This will allow the county clerk to cancel the previous registration on file, reducing the possibility of fraud.

**Q: *Can anyone distribute Voter Registration Applications and Applications for Absentee Ballots?***

**A:** Yes, ANYONE may distribute these applications.

**Voter Registration Applications** are available from the Secretary of State; applications collected during a voter registration drive must be returned to the Secretary of State or the local county clerk within 21 days after the date on the application or no later than 30 days prior to the next election.

**Applications for Absentee Ballots** are available from your local county clerk (see pages 34-40 for contact information in your area).

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**Q: *My daughter wants to transfer her voter registration from our hometown to her new college campus. Can she do that?***

**A:** Students may be considered to be residents of the place where they lived prior to becoming a student. However, a student may also have the intent to be a resident of the new place and be registered there. Of course, a student may not be registered and vote in more than one place. This also applies to people on temporary job assignments in other areas of the state.  
(ACA 7-5-201)

**Q: *My husband and I are retired. We spend winters at home in south Arkansas and summers in the mountains in Colorado. What residence should we use to determine where we are entitled to register and vote?***

A: This is a decision you will have to make, but you must choose only one voting location. In general, your residence is where your family lives, where you physically reside, the place you intend to return to live, where your driver's license says you live, where you claim your homeowner's property tax exemption, etc. Many factors affect residency.

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**Q: *I recently decided to register to vote for the first time, so I filled out a voter registration application at a booth at the county fair. It was a little more than a month before the next election. When I went to the polls to vote, I was told that I was not registered. What should I do?***

A: You are not legally registered until the county clerk records your registration. Arkansas law requires organizers of voter registration drives to submit those applications within 21 days of the drive or no later than 30 days prior to an election. If they did not do so, you would not be eligible to vote in that election. Check with your county clerk to see if your application has been received and is complete so that you can vote in the next election.



## Your Assignment... Go Vote!

Now that you're a registered voter, the next step is to get informed on the candidates and issues and get ready to cast your ballot! To make voting as easy and convenient as possible, Arkansas offers three simple methods of voting to fit your needs.

### Methods of Voting



#### *Go to the Polls*

*Vote at your poll on Election Day  
from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.*

You'll vote at a poll determined by where you live and the precinct assigned by your county election commission. Most local newspapers publish a list of polling places within a few days of an election. If you received a Voter ID card from your county clerk, it may show your assigned precinct.



#### *Vote Early*

- You may early vote 15 days prior to Election Day.
- In most counties, early voting is conducted at the county clerk's office.
- In counties with off-site early voting (a location other than the county clerk's office), local newspapers will publish the designated sites.
- During a preferential primary or a general election, early voting shall be available between the hours of

8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and ending at 5 p.m. on the Monday before the election. Off-site early voting hours may vary by county; watch your local newspaper or contact your county clerk for times.

- During all other elections, early voting shall be available during your county clerk's regular office hours beginning 15 days prior to an election, ending the day before the election.
- You may update your voter registration information when you vote early if your name or address has changed.



## ***Vote Absentee***

*You may vote absentee in the following conditions:*

- 1) You will be unavoidably absent from your polling site on Election Day (the law does not require you to state a reason), **or**
- 2) You will be unable to attend your polling site due to illness or physical disability.

## **Provisional Voting**



*If you registered to vote but your name does not appear on the precinct voter registration list, or if you are unable to comply with identification requirements for mail-in registrants, you have the right to cast a Provisional Ballot after signing an affirmation that you are a registered voter in the county and are eligible to vote in that election.*

***If your vote is challenged by a poll watcher,*** you have the right to cast a Provisional Ballot that will be set aside by the election officials in a special envelope until the election commission determines whether the ballot may be counted.

***If you cast a Provisional Ballot,*** you have the right to be informed in writing of whether or not your ballot was counted and, if not, the reason it was not counted.

A poll watcher may not speak with you, may not challenge your ballot in bad faith, may not be within six feet of the voting area, may not disrupt the election and may not electioneer within 100 feet of the main entrance of the polling site.

***Casting a Provisional Ballot when a ballot is challenged by a poll watcher:***

1. If a poll watcher challenges a voter's ballot, that ballot will be treated as a Provisional Ballot.
2. The election official will write the voter's name and address on the list of provisional voters.
3. The poll watcher will complete a Challenged Ballot form.
4. The election official will give the voter the proper ballot after removing the stub and placing it in the ballot stub box.
5. The voter will mark the ballot, then place it in the Provisional Ballot Envelope and seal it.
6. The voter then will place the sealed Provisional Ballot envelope and the challenged ballot form (unless it is printed on the outside of the



Provisional Voter envelope) in the Provisional Voter envelope.

7. The election official will provide the voter with written instructions on how to determine whether the provisional vote was counted and, if not, the reason the vote was not counted. (In most cases, the election commission will mail a notice to the voter.)

***Casting a Provisional Ballot when registration status cannot be confirmed:***

1. If a voter's name is not included on the precinct voter registration list and if the election official at the poll cannot verify the voter's status as a registered voter in the county, that voter is entitled to cast a Provisional Ballot if he or she contends to be a registered voter in the precinct in which he or she desires to vote.
2. The election official will ask the voter to provide a current, valid photo ID or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter. If the voter fails to provide this ID, the election official will note it on the precinct voter list.
3. The election official will write the voter's name and address on the list of provisional voters.
4. The election official will provide a Voter Affirmation form on which the voter affirms that he or she is a registered voter in the precinct and is eligible to vote in the election.

5. When the affirmation is completed, the election official will provide the proper ballot to the voter.
6. The voter may then mark the ballot.
7. The voter should place the marked ballot into the Provisional Ballot envelope and seal it.
8. The voter should then place the Voter Affirmation (if the affirmation is a separate piece of paper and not printed on the envelope) in the Provisional Voter envelope.
9. The election official shall provide the voter with written instructions on how to determine whether or not the provisional vote was counted, and, if not, the reason the vote was not counted. (In most cases, the election commission will mail a notice to the voter.)

## **Fail Safe Voting**



- If you move to a new address within your current precinct, you have the right to vote in that precinct after filling out a change-of-address form.
- If you move to a new address in your county but outside the precinct where you're registered, you have the right to vote at your new precinct and fill out a change-of-address form there.

# What to Expect When Voting

- You must state your name and address and confirm your date of birth to an election official.
- The election official will ask you to provide identification. The following documents are acceptable: current and valid photo ID or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter.
- If you're unable to provide ID, the election official will note it on the Precinct Voter Registration List, and you may vote a regular ballot.
- If you registered by mail after January 1, 2003, and did not submit a photocopy of the required ID with your voter registration application, you may be required to show a required form of ID to vote a regular ballot. If you do not show the ID, you will be instructed on how to vote a Provisional Ballot. (See page 3 for ID requirements).
- In a primary election, you must state in which party primary you want to vote (currently Democratic or Republican).
- In a primary election, you are allowed to vote only one party's ballot.
- In a primary election, the election official records which party's ballot you vote.
- Next, you sign the Precinct Voter Registration List and your name is placed on the list of voters.

- The election official will give you a ballot or direct you to a voting machine. You will cast your ballot on one of two types of voting systems now available in Arkansas:

Optical Scan — Voters use a special pen to mark a paper ballot, which is then scanned into a counting machine either at the polling site or in a central location in the county.

Digital Recording Electronic (DRE) — Voters touch a computer screen to make their choices. Every polling site will have at least one these accessible to voters with disabilities. Under Arkansas law, voters who use DREs will be able to verify their votes on a paper printout that will be kept for use in recounts.

- You will go alone to a voting booth and mark your ballot. You are allotted 5 minutes to vote.
- If you vote a paper ballot, you will deposit it into the ballot box or an electronic scanner.

## Avoiding the “Overvote”



An overvote is a ballot marked with more than one choice for the same question, such as two candidates in the same race. Overvotes cannot be counted, so it's important to make sure you don't make that mistake. If you vote on a paper ballot (absentee or optical scan ballots), check your choices very carefully to make sure they're marked correctly. If you make a mistake, simply ask an election official for a new ballot before you drop yours in the ballot box. Electronic voting machines will automatically prevent overvotes, but it's still important to double check your responses.

## FAQs on Voting



**Q:** *If the election officials know me, must they ask me to present identification?*

**A:** Yes

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**Q:** *What if I need assistance to vote my ballot?*

**A:** Simply inform an election official that you need assistance. You may ask two election officials to assist you in marking your ballot, or another person of your choice may assist you. If you are physically unable to stand in line, you may request to advance to the front of the line.

- If you are disabled, an election official may not bring a ballot to your car. Plan ahead to vote absentee if you are physically unable to enter your polling site. Under no circumstances may a ballot leave the polling site.
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**Q:** *What if I make a mistake on my ballot?*

**A:** If you have not yet put your ballot into the ballot box, you may ask an election official for another ballot. You will be asked to sign a Spoiled Ballot Affidavit. Do not hesitate to ask to start over. You may “spoil” up to two ballots and receive another (three ballots total). Once you drop your ballot in the ballot box, no changes can be made.

**Q: What if I'm at the polls and my current address differs from the one on the Precinct Voter List?**

**A:** For you to vote a regular ballot,

- The election official must contact the county clerk, **AND**
- The county clerk must verify that your address is within that precinct.

*If your new address is within the current precinct:*

- You must complete a voter registration form to update county voter registration records.

*If your new address is NOT within the current precinct:*

- The election official must contact the county clerk to determine the proper voting precinct, then you must go to the new polling site to vote.
- 

**Q: What if my name is NOT on the Precinct Voter List at my polling site?**

**A:** The poll worker will contact the county clerk to confirm your current registration status using your name, date of birth and current address.

- The election officials will verify that you are a qualified registered voter in that precinct.
- If you are registered but have moved outside the precinct, you may be re-directed to the correct polling site or you may vote a Provisional Ballot.
- If your name or address differs from the Precinct Voter List, you must complete a Voter Registration Application form to update your voter record.

**Q: *What if my name is NOT on the Precinct Voter Registration List AND the election official cannot confirm my registration with the county clerk?***

A: You may vote a Provisional Ballot after signing a written affirmation that you are a registered voter in the precinct in which you wish to vote and that you are eligible to vote in that election;

- The election official will provide written instructions on how to determine whether your vote was counted, and if not, why the vote was not counted, **and**
  - The election official will note on the List of Voters all persons voting in this manner.
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**Q: *What if my polling site is not wheelchair accessible?***

A: The Americans With Disabilities Act requires all polling sites to be wheelchair accessible. Please call the State Board of Election Commissioners (800-411-6996) if you are uncertain about the accessibility of your polling site.

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**Q: *Who can challenge my ballot?***

A: Registered poll watchers (candidates, candidate representatives or representatives of parties or issues) are allowed inside the polls as observers. They may challenge the ballots of voters, usually based on identity, address or date of birth of the voter. In other words, a poll watcher may question whether a voter is who he says he is, lives at the stated address or is old enough to vote. The poll watcher may not speak directly to you or come within 6 feet of voting booths.

**Q: *What happens if a poll watcher challenges my ballot?***

**A:** An election official must inform you that your ballot is being challenged by a poll watcher.

- The poll watcher must display credentials (a valid “Poll Watcher Authorization Form”) unless the poll watcher is a candidate.
- The poll watcher must complete a Challenged Ballot Form.
- You must vote on a paper ballot initialed by the election official.
- You must place the Provisional Ballot in a single envelope marked “Provisional Ballot” and seal it.
- You must place the sealed “Provisional Ballot” envelope and the “Challenged Ballot Form” (unless the form is printed on the outside of the envelope) in an envelope marked “Provisional Voter.”
- The election official must maintain a separate list of names of provisional voters.
- All Provisional Ballots must be preserved, secured and separated from the remaining ballots so that the county board of election commissioners can verify registration and determine whether the votes may be counted.
- Before the results of the election are certified, the county board of election commissioners must determine whether the Provisional Ballots are valid. If the commissioners suspect that election laws have been violated, they may refer the matter to the prosecuting attorney.



**Q: *Are candidates allowed to solicit my vote outside my polling site?***

A: Yes, “electioneering” is allowed outside the polls. However, it may not occur within 100 feet of the primary entrances of the buildings that contain polls.

- If a campaign worker or candidate approaches you within 100 feet of a poll, report the violation to the election officials at that poll immediately or contact your county board of election commissioners.
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**Q: *If I have a problem or question about voting, whom do I call?***

A: If you have a problem or question involving your **registration** information or registration status, contact your **county clerk**, who can help in cases such as:

- The time is nearing 30 days prior to an election, and you haven't received a voter ID card.
- Your name does not appear on the Precinct Voter Registration List at your poll, and the election officials cannot verify your registration with the county clerk.
- You have moved or changed your name, and you need to update your voter information.

If you have a problem or question involving a poll worker, a poll watcher, or any **Election Day procedure** at a poll, contact your **county board of election commissioners**.

## FAQs on Absentee Voting

**Q: *What is the first step to voting absentee?***

**A:** Obtain an Application for Absentee Ballot from your county clerk who may mail or fax you an application. You may also request an application in person at your county clerk's office.

**Q: *On the application, there is a reference to a "designated bearer." What does that mean?***

**A:** A "designated bearer" is anyone chosen by you to pick up or deliver your ballot.

**Q: *On the application, there is a reference to "agent" and "authorized agent." What does that mean?***

**A:** If you are a hospital patient or a resident in a long-term care facility, then an administrator of the facility may assist you in the absentee voting process. This person must file an affidavit with the local county clerk to become your authorized agent.

**Q: *Is there a deadline for submitting an Application for Absentee Ballot to your county clerk?***

**A:** Yes — the deadline depends on your method for submitting the application back to the county clerk:

**a) In person by you**

By close of business the day BEFORE the election

**b) By designated bearer**

By close of business the day BEFORE the election

**c) By mail or by fax**

By 7 days before the election

**d) By authorized agent**

By 1:30 p.m. **ON** Election Day

**Note:** *The law does not prohibit county clerks from mailing absentee ballot applications during the seven days prior to an election. However, if you receive the application during that window, you or your chosen bearer must deliver it personally to the county clerk.*

**Q: *How will I receive my ballot?***

A: On the Application for Absentee Ballot, you declare how you wish to receive it: by picking it up in person, by receiving it by mail, or by allowing a bearer to pick it up (an administrator, authorized agent or designated bearer).

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**Q: *Are there deadlines for ballot pickup?***

A: The law only specifies a time window for designated bearers. They may pick up your ballot no earlier than 15 days before a preferential or general election and no earlier than 7 days before a runoff. You should pick up your ballot based on the ability to deliver it back to the county clerk on time.

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**Q: *What are the deadlines for delivering ballots to the county clerk?***

A: Again, the deadline depends on your “method” of delivery:

**a) In person by you**

By close of business the day **BEFORE** the election

**b) By mail**

Received by 7:30 p.m. ON Election Day

**c) By designated bearer**

By 7:30 p.m. ON Election Day

**d) By authorized agent**

By 7:30 p.m. ON Election Day

**You may NOT fax a ballot.**

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**Q: *Am I required to request a separate Application for Absentee Ballot for every election?***

**A:** *If you reside within your county of registration, one Application for Absentee Ballot serves one election and its corresponding runoff. You must submit a new application for each election cycle.*

*If you reside outside your county of registration such as students or military voters), are disabled or reside in a care facility, you will automatically receive a ballot for each election for the next year.*

*If you are a citizen temporarily residing outside the territorial limits of the United States, you may receive absentee ballots thorough the next two (2) regularly scheduled general elections for federal office, including any runoff elections that may occur as a result of the outcome of the general election. You must indicate this preference on the application itself.*



# Study Guide

## Answers to Other Voting Questions

In addition to routine voting questions, the Secretary of State often fields inquiries from voters and election workers on special election situations. The following responses address scenarios that sometimes arise during Arkansas elections.

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**Q:** *My neighbor moved across town to another precinct but still votes at the same poll I do. Is that okay?*

**A:** Current law does not allow a voter to cast a ballot anywhere other than the poll assigned to the voter's current residence by the county election commission (or a designated early voting site). It is possible that your neighbor's new precinct actually votes at the same polling site or that your neighbor is living temporarily in a new location and would not be required to change registration.

Voters who move within 30 days prior to an election should notify the county clerk as soon as possible to change their address and confirm their new polling site. Voters whose names do not appear on the voter list at the new precinct will still be allowed to vote under the "fail-safe" provision of the National Voter Registration Act as long as the move was within the same county. That ballot will be counted only after registration status is verified. (Ark. Const. Amend. 51; ACA 7-5-305)

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**Q: *Are poll workers permitted to take a ballot to a disabled voter waiting in a car outside the polling site? It seems like a kind thing to do, but is it legal?***

**A:** No. Ballots are not to be removed from the polling place during an election (ACA 7-5-103). Any person who registered to vote but is unable to go to the polls may obtain an absentee ballot. If a voter can get to the polls but cannot stand in line, the law allows that person to request to be moved to the front of the line. (ACA 7-5-310)

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**Q: *I am an elderly woman who lives alone without transportation. A volunteer with a local campaign offered to take people in my neighborhood to the polls to vote. Is that allowed?***

**A:** Yes. However, they are not allowed to offer you any money, goods, wares or merchandise for the purpose of influencing your vote. (ACA 7-1-104)

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**Q: *A candidate that I admire is conducting a write-in campaign. She is printing adhesive labels for us to put on our ballots to vote for her. Will my vote count if I use her adhesive label?***

**A:** No. All write-in votes must be written in the handwriting of the person casting the vote (ACA 7-5-315), or entered on the ballot on the touchscreen machine (ACA 7-5-525).

**Q: *When I went into the voting booth, I found a pencil with a candidate's name printed on it urging voters to vote for him. Is that allowed?***

**A:** No. Sometimes a previous voter leaves such campaign material in the voting booth inadvertently. But it is illegal for campaign materials to be in the polling place. No "electioneering" is allowed within 100 feet of the primary exterior entrance used by voters to the building containing the polling place on Election Day. (ACA 7-1-103)

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**Q: *My neighbor is blind, but she would like to vote in the next election. She is a friend of one of the candidates on the ballot and he has offered to go into the voting booth with her to help her cast her ballot. Can he do that?***

**A:** Your neighbor or any other disabled person wishing to vote may select anyone, including a candidate, to assist in marking the ballot according to the voter's wishes. The person selected must not attempt to influence the vote. A disabled voter may instead choose to be assisted by two election officials (ACA 7-5-310 and 311). Additionally, at each polling site, voting equipment is now available that allows disabled voters to vote independently.

**Q: *After I voted, I handed my ballot to the election official, but I never saw her put it in the ballot box. Aren't there any procedures in place for election officials to follow so that my ballot is secret and my vote is counted?***

A: The voter should personally insert his or her ballot into the ballot box (ACA 7-5-309). If you suspect that your ballot was mishandled, you should contact your county board of election commissioners, county clerk or prosecuting attorney as soon as possible.

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**Q: *My daughter attends college in another state, but is registered to vote here at home. Can she vote here without having to drive all that way?***

A: A registered college student must do one thing to begin the process: phone the appropriate county clerk and request an Application for Absentee Ballot. The remainder of the process is driven by the county clerk and is very simple.

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**Q: *There are several people living at the local homeless shelter who have registered to vote. This can't be their permanent residence, so how are they allowed to register with only a temporary address?***

A: Arkansas law supports the right of homeless people and allows them to register to vote.



**Q: *My grandmother has become senile and was recently declared mentally incompetent by a judge. The administrator at the nursing home where she lives requested an absentee ballot for her to vote in the next election. Is that allowed?***

**A:** Unless the court's competency order specifically states that your grandmother is prohibited from voting, she is still allowed to vote (ACA 28-65-302 as amended by Act 1689 of 2001). Your grandmother must sign the absentee ballot application. If your grandmother designated someone from the nursing home as her agent, that person may deliver the completed application to the county clerk's office, along with an affidavit from the nursing home administrator stating that your grandmother is a patient of the nursing home and is unable to vote on election day at her regular polling site. (ACA7-5-403)

You may wish to seek a change in the incompetency order to specifically deal with this issue. If you feel that someone is coercing your grandmother's vote, contact your county board of election commissioners, county clerk or prosecuting attorney.

**Q: *My neighbor's son is in state prison on a felony conviction. He has applied for an absentee ballot from prison. Can he do that?***

**A:** No. A person who is in prison or on parole for the conviction of a felony cannot register or vote. The Secretary of State and county clerks regularly receive criminal conviction records from the Department of Corrections. These are checked against the voter registration data so that the registrations of these voters can be promptly canceled. A convicted felon may regain the right to vote after obtaining a pardon from the governor or after discharging a sentence. Documentation must be provided to the county clerk. (Ark. Const. Amend. 51 as amended by Act 560 of 2001)

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**Q: *Can someone trace my ballot and see how I voted?***

**A:** It is a matter of public record that you voted and that you voted in a particular party's primary. However, your ballot and your preferences on it cannot be traced back to you.

**Q: *Does one vote really make much difference?***

A: It's not uncommon for elections to be decided by very narrow margins, especially in local issues. In 1998, three municipal elections in Arkansas were won by a single vote. More recently, a 2005 local initiative in Hot Springs passed by only 89 of the 9,401 votes cast. Just a handful of voters — sometimes even just one vote — can make a huge impact.



# County Clerks of Arkansas

## **Arkansas County Clerk**

*Aline Ellenberg*

101 Court Square  
Dewitt, AR 72042  
870-946-4349  
Fax 870-946-4349

## **Ashley County Clerk**

*Genie Kerston*

205 E. Jefferson #5  
Hamburg, AR 71646  
870-853-2020  
Fax 870-853-2082

## **Baxter County Clerk**

*Rhonda J. Porter*

#1 East 7th Street  
Mountain Home, AR 72653  
870-425-3475  
Fax 870-424-5105

## **Benton County Clerk**

*Mary L. Slinkard*

215 Central Avenue  
Bentonville, AR 72712  
479-271-1013  
Fax 479-271-1019

## **Boone County Clerk**

*Kristie Blevins*

P.O. Box 2814  
Harrison, AR 72601  
871-741-8428  
Fax 870-741-9724

## **Bradley County Clerk**

*Janet Kimbrell*

101 East Cedar Suite  
Warren, AR 71671  
870-226-3464  
Fax 870-226-8401

## **Calhoun County Clerk**

*Alma Davis*

Post Office Box 1175  
Hampton, AR 71744  
870-798-2517  
Fax 870-798-2428

## **Carroll County Clerk**

*Shirley Doss*

210 West Church  
Berryville, AR 72616  
870-423-2022  
Fax 870-423-7400

## **Chicot County Clerk**

*Pam Donaldson*

108 Main Street  
Lake Village, AR 71653  
870-265-8000  
Fax 870-265-8041

## **Clark County Clerk**

*Rhonda Cole*

401 Clay Street  
Arkadelphia, AR 71923  
870-246-4491  
Fax 870-246-6505

**Clay County Clerk***Sharon Williams*

151 South 2nd Street  
Piggott, AR 72454  
870-598-2813  
Fax 870-598-2813

**Cleburne County Clerk***Dana Guffey*

301 West Main Street  
Heber Springs, AR 72543  
501-362-4620  
Fax 501-362-4622

**Cleveland County Clerk***Sharon K. Gray*

Post Office Box 368  
Rison, AR 71665  
870-325-6521  
Fax 870-325-6144

**Columbia County Clerk***Sherry L. Bell*

1 Courthouse Square  
Magnolia, AR 71753  
870-235-3774  
Fax 870-235-3773

**Conway County Clerk***Debbie Hartman*

117 S. Moose  
Morrliton, AR 72110  
501-354-9621  
Fax 501-354-9610

**Craighead County Clerk***Nancy Nelms*

511 South Main Street  
Jonesboro, AR 72401  
870-933-4520  
Fax 870-933-4514

**Crawford County Clerk***Patti Hill*

300 Main Street  
Van Buren, AR 72956  
479-474-1312  
Fax 479-471-3236

**Crittenden County Clerk***Ruth Trent*

100 Court Square  
Marion, AR 72364  
870-739-4434  
Fax 870-739-3072

**Cross County Clerk***Peggy T. Jones*

705 East Union  
Wynne, AR 72396  
870-238-5735  
Fax 870-238-5739

**Dallas County Clerk***Janice McDaniel*

206 W. 3rd Street  
Fordyce, AR 71742  
870-352-2307  
Fax 870-352-7179

**Desha County Clerk***Brenda Smith-Morgan*

608 Robert Moore Street  
Arkansas City, AR 71630  
870-877-2323  
Fax 870-877-2531

**Drew County Clerk***Lyna Gullede*

210 South Main  
Monticello, AR 71655  
870-460-6260  
Fax 870-460-6246

## **County Clerks of Arkansas**

### **Faulkner County Clerk**

*Melinda Reynolds*

801 Locust Street  
Conway, AR 72034  
501-450-4909  
Fax 501-450-4938

### **Franklin County Clerk**

*Sharon Needham*

211 West Commercial  
Ozark, AR 72949  
479-667-3607  
Fax 479-667-4247

### **Fulton County Clerk**

*Vicki Bishop*

123 South Main  
Salem, AR 72576  
870-895-3310  
Fax 870-895-3383

### **Garland County Clerk**

*Judy Hughes*

501 Ouachita Avenue  
Hot Springs, AR 71901  
501-622-3610  
Fax 501-624-0665

### **Grant County Clerk**

*Carol Ewing*

101 West Center  
Sheridan, AR 72150  
870-942-2631  
Fax 870-942-3564

### **Greene County Clerk**

*Linda Heritage*

Post Office Box 62  
Paragould, AR 72450  
870-239-6311  
Fax 870-239-3550

### **Hempstead County Clerk**

*Velora Bright Haltom*

400 South Washington  
Hope, AR 71802  
870-777-2241  
Fax 870-777-7829

### **Hot Spring County Clerk**

*Mary Ann Walters*

210 Locust Street  
Malvern, AR 72104  
501-332-2291  
Fax 501-332-2221

### **Howard County Clerk**

*Janice Huffman*

421 North Main St., Rm. 10  
Nashville, AR 71852  
870-845-7502  
Fax 870-845-7505

### **Independence Co. Clerk**

*Margeret Boothby*

192 East Main Street  
Batesville, AR 72501  
870-793-8830  
Fax 870-793-8831

### **Izard County Clerk**

*Rhonda Halbrook*

Post Office Box 95  
Melbourne, AR 72556  
870-368-4316  
Fax 870-368-4748

### **Jackson County Clerk**

*Dottie Calhoun*

208 Main Street  
Newport, AR 72112  
870-523-7420  
Fax 870-523-7404

## **County Clerks of Arkansas**

### **Jefferson County Clerk**

*Helen McClinton Bradley*

101 Barraque  
Pine Bluff, AR 71601  
870-541-5322  
Fax 870-541-5324

### **Johnson County Clerk**

*Kathy B. Pitts*

215 Main Street  
Clarksville, AR 72830  
479-754-3467  
Fax 479-754-2286

### **Lafayette County Clerk**

*Diane Fletcher*

#2 Courthouse Square  
Lewisville, AR 71845  
870-921-4633  
Fax 870-921-4505

### **Lawrence County Clerk**

*Tina Stowers*

Post Office Box 526  
Walnut Ridge, AR 72746  
870-886-1111  
Fax 870-886-1122

### **Lee County Clerk**

*Pat Wilson*

15 E. Chestnut St., Room 4  
Marianna, AR 72360  
870-295-7715  
Fax 870-295-7783

### **Lincoln County Clerk**

*Katherine Lawson*

300 S. Drew St., Room 101  
Star City, AR 71667  
870-628-5144  
Fax 870-628-5794

### **Little River County Clerk**

*Linda Coleman*

351 N. 2nd, Suite 4-B  
Ashdown, AR 71822  
870-898-7208  
Fax 870-898-7207

### **Logan County Clerk**

*Lynda Brooks*

#25 Courthouse  
Paris, AR 72855  
479-963-2618  
Fax 479-963-9017

### **Lonoke County Clerk**

*Prudie Percifull*

3rd and North Center  
Lonoke, AR 72086  
501-676-2368  
Fax 501-676-3038

### **Madison County Clerk**

*Faron Ledbetter*

Post Office Box 37  
Huntsville, AR 72740  
479-738-2747  
Fax 479-738-2735

### **Marion County Clerk**

*Dee Carlton*

Post Office Box 385  
Yellville, AR 72687  
870-449-6226  
Fax 870-449-5143

### **Miller County Clerk**

*Ann Nicholas*

400 Laurel #105  
Texarkana, AR 71854  
870-774-1501  
Fax 870-773-4090

## County Clerks of Arkansas

### **Mississippi County Clerk**

*Lib Shippen*

200 W. Walnut, Room 10

Blytheville, AR 72315

870-762-2411

Fax 870-838-7784

### **Monroe County Clerk**

*Janet E. Tweedle*

123 Madison Street

Clarendon, AR 72029

870-747-3632

Fax 870-747-5961

### **Montgomery County Clerk**

*Debbie Baxter*

Post Office Box 369

Mount Ida, AR 71957

870-867-3521

Fax 870-867-2177

### **Nevada County Clerk**

*Julie Stockton*

Post Office Box 621

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870-887-2710

Fax 870-887-5795

### **Newton County Clerk**

*Donnie L. Davis*

Court Square

Jasper, AR 72641

870-446-5125

Fax 870-446-5755

### **Ouachita County Clerk**

*Britt Williford*

145 Jefferson

Camden, AR 71711

870-837-2220

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### **Perry County Clerk**

*Barbara Lovell*

310 West Main

Perryville, AR 72126

501-889-5126

Fax 501-889-5126

### **Phillips County Clerk**

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870-338-5505

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### **Pike County Clerk**

*Sandy Campbell*

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Murfreesboro, AR 71958

870-285-2231

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### **Poinsett County Clerk**

*Fonda Condra*

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Harrisburg, AR 72432

870-578-4410

Fax 870-578-2441

### **Polk County Clerk**

*Terri Harrison*

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Mena, AR 71953

479-394-8123

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### **Pope County Clerk**

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Fax 479-967-2291



## **County Clerks of Arkansas**

### **Prairie County Clerk**

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870-256-4434  
Fax 870-256-4434

### **Pulaski County Clerk**

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Fax 501-340-8340

### **Randolph County Clerk**

*Janis Mock*

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Pocahontas, AR 72455  
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Fax 870-892-5829

### **Saline County Clerk**

*Freddy Burton*

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Benton, AR 72015  
501-303-5630  
Fax 501-303-5684

### **Scott County Clerk**

*Lenny McDaniel*

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479-637-2642  
Fax 479-637-0124

### **Searcy County Clerk**

*Wesley Smith*

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870-448-3807  
Fax 870-448-5005

### **Sebastian County Clerk**

*Doris Tate*

Post Office Box 1087  
Fort Smith, AR 72901  
479-782-5065  
Fax 479-784-1567

### **Sevier County Clerk**

*Sandra Dunn*

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De Queen, AR 71832  
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Fax 870-642-3986

### **Sharp County Clerk**

*Tommy Estes*

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Ash Flat, AR 72513  
870-994-7361  
Fax 870-994-7712

### **St. Francis County Clerk**

*Elizabeth Smith*

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Forrest City, AR 72336  
870-261-1725  
Fax 870-630-1210

### **Stone County Clerk**

*Donna Wilson*

107 West Main Street  
Mountain View, AR 72560  
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Fax 870-269-9058

### **Union County Clerk**

*Connie Chandler*

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Fax 870-864-1937

## **County Clerks of Arkansas**

### **Van Buren County Clerk**

*Ester Bass*

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Clinton, AR 72031

501-745-4140

Fax 501-745-7447

### **Washington County Clerk**

*Karen Combs Pritchard*

208 North College Avenue

Fayetteville, AR 72701

479-444-1711

Fax 479-444-1894

### **White County Clerk**

*Tanya Burleson*

300 North Spruce

Searcy, AR 72143

501-279-6204

Fax 501-279-6260

### **Woodruff County Clerk**

*Becky Hicks*

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Augusta, AR 72006

870-347-2871

Fax 870-347-2608

### **Yell County Clerk**

Carolyn Morris

P.O. Box 219

Danville, AR 72833

479-229-4404

Fax 479-229-5634

# Voting 101

## Open Book Exam Where to find the answers

**Arkansas Secretary of State  
Elections Division .....800-247-3312**

**State Board ..... (501) 682-1834 or  
of Election Commissioners .....800-411-6996**

**My County Clerk.....**

**County Clerk's Phone #.....**

**My Precinct # .....**

**My Polling Place.....**

*For more information on elections and voting, visit the  
Arkansas Secretary of State's website:*

**[www.sos.arkansas.gov](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov)**

*Information you can find on the website includes:*

 **Voter Registration Application**

 **Election Results**

 **Upcoming Election Dates**

 **Candidate Information Forms**

 **Election Calendar**

 **Arkansas Register**

 **Directory of Elected Officials**

 **Initiatives and Referenda**



A voter education program presented by  
**Arkansas Secretary of State**  
**Charlie Daniels**

Elections Division, State Capitol Room 26  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-1094

[www.sos.arkansas.gov](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov)